GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:676
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
NEW TOURISM CIRCUITS
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link Indian Budhist Circuits with countries in South East and Far East Asia;

(b) If so, whether the Government have also a proposal to open a new circuit called Ramayan Circuit, a package that links India with West Asia, Central Asia and South East Asia; and (

(c) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a), (b) & (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 676 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.5.2002 REGARDING NEW TOURISM CIRCUITS.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Hon`ble Prime Minister of India stated during his InauguralAddress at the 51st PATA Annual Conference 2002 in New Delhi on 15th April, 2002 `There is also scope for developing a regional Ramayana Circuit and a package that linksthe centers of Sufi spiritualism in India, West Asia, Central Asia, and South-East Asia`.

(c): India is now adopting a policy of `Look East `in marketing its tourist destinations and would thus be placing greater emphasis in attracting tourists from South-East Asian countries. India is a member of Geo-economic grouping Mekong-Ganga Co-operation (MGC) under whichwe are endeavoring to intensify collaboration in tourism sector. In fact second expert group meeting on tourism is slated to take place in Delhi on June 28th and 29th , 2002 after which work on common publicity brochures and MGC tourism investment guide will commence.